

Feb. 05, 2014

The National Security Working Group (NSWG) provides wide-spectrum coverage of issues like the Iranian threat, missile defense, sequestration, New START, events in Syria and more. We look forward to providing this newsletter to RSC members and welcome your input throughout the 113th Congress.

" Nuclear threat revived" (Rep. Franks)

During the Cold War, the threat of a nuclear attack monopolized headlines of news articles and cover sheets of Pentagon reports. While the headlines and concerns faded as fast as the memory of the Cold War, **the threat of nuclear attack is still very real.**

More than two decades later, estimates show the world's combined inventory of nuclear warheads remains at more than 17,000 with more than 4,300 considered operational. Adding to the risk, states with nuclear weapons continue to modernize their remaining nuclear forces and show commitment to their programs for the indefinite future.

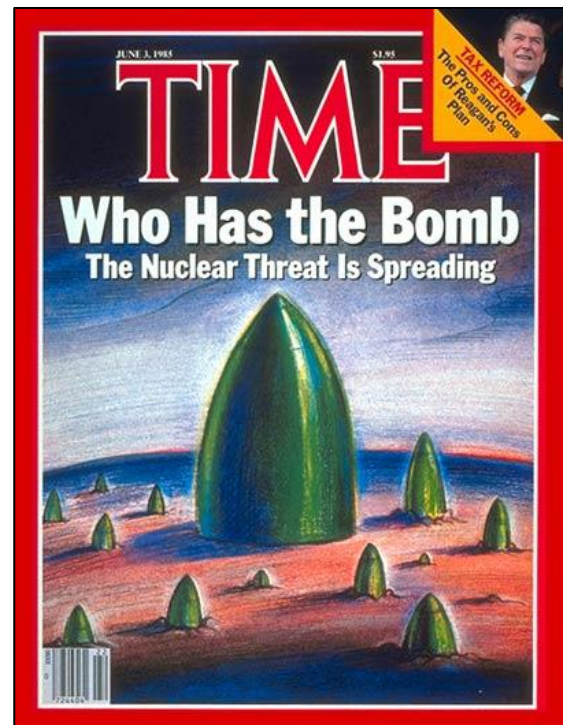
Just recently, we heard from the Director of National Intelligence that North Korea, after being sanctioned into near starvation for a half century, has expanded the size of the uranium enrichment facility at the Nyongbyon nuclear complex and restarted a reactor that was used for plutonium production.

Russia has threatened to withdraw from the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, citing our pursuit of the European Phased Adaptive Approach. And there is the possibility that Russia is trying to circumvent the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty of 1987 that banned an entire class of medium-range nuclear missiles.

Under heavy sanctions we were able to push leaders in Iran to sit and discuss halting its nuclear weapons pursuit, only to have our President immediately agree to let them continue to enrich uranium, which is ultimately the whole ball game.

Perhaps it is the fear of terrorists or the fear of cyber war, or just the fear of knowing, but Americans, along with the President, seem to have forgotten the implications of an attack from countries that possess nuclear capability.

Three months after his election in 2009, the President addressed a crowd in Prague, Czech Republic about strengthening the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.



"Countries with nuclear weapons will move towards disarmament, countries without nuclear weapons will not acquire them, and all countries can access peaceful nuclear energy," the President said.

Well, Mr. President, a world without a nuclear threat would be remarkable, but we must never fool ourselves and our allies into thinking that the nuclear threat is somehow now a relic of the cold war simply because our new Commander in Chief wishes it so; especially when a country like Iran is on the cusp of becoming a nuclear capable nation.

The American people and our allies deserve more than diplomatic fantasy. They deserve a leader who will clarify and enforce a firm policy on nuclear weapons, missile defense and national security. Because, the day after a national nuclear catastrophe, it will not matter what we should have done to prevent it.

NSWG Contact: Ari Zimmerman, Ari.Zimmerman@mail.house.gov, 6-5536

Continued on next page

"Russia Violates Cold War Era Nuclear Arms Agreement" (Rep. Fleming)



Last week, a New York Times article indicated that the United States informed its NATO allies that Russia had tested a new medium range, nuclear capable cruise missile, despite the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) that banned the testing, production and possession of such medium-range missiles. Even more troubling, is that the Administration knew about Russia's cheating on the nuclear agreements for the past four years and is just now letting our allies and the American public know about it.

While serving in Congress, John Kerry voiced concerns about suspected arms control violations, yet as Secretary of State, Mr. Kerry has not once raised these particular concerns with Russia. Instead, Secretary Kerry has only spoken in vague terms about the importance of complying with arms accords.

Through these overly vague signals from the Administration, there are serious concerns that Russia has been able to skirt its obligations under the INF Treaty and others, including New START, which the Administration finalized in 2010.

Last year, the President made a number of speeches in which he called for further U.S. nuclear arms reductions. However, not only has Russia violated other arms agreements, its Foreign Minister, Mikhail Ulyanov, indicated this week that Russia may choose to withdraw from the START nuclear treaty altogether. With these compliance issues in view, it is clearer than ever that the U.S. cannot continue to negotiate away more of its nuclear superiority.

NSWG Contact: Matthew Silver, Matthew.Silver@mail.house.gov, x5-2777

Each NSWG Item reflects the position and view of the authoring office. Questions or comments regarding the NSWG can be directed to: Jackie Rivera, Jackie.Rivera@mail.house.gov or 6-0678